FBIS DAILY REPORT

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COUNTRY'S PRESIDENTIAL CRISIS APPEARS NEAR END

Anaya Addresses Journalists

PY110042 Beunos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2333 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Speech by military junta member Adm Jorge Isaac Anaya in year-end reception given to journalists on 10 December in Buenos Aires]

[Text] Gentlemen: I am honored to present to you yearend greetings on behalf of the military junta and the Argentine Armed Forces. The events the country is witnessing impose on me the obligation to talk to you in concrete terms, avoiding merely circumstancial remarks. I want to tell you, in the first place, that we are aware of the current situation and that in no way are we unaware of what the nation expects and needs.

Therefore, the military junta, acting with serenity, prudence and consideration as the circumstance demands, has exhausted the procedures and the time for the treatment of the current institutional situation. This situation will be resolved in the coming hours. I must also add that, for the armed forces and the government of the armed forces, freedom of the press is not an objective to be sought but it is a need, because, even with its excesses and errors, the press is an instrument to convey the people's authentic aspirations to those in the government. This is valid for all governments and more so for this military government. Gentlemen: Thank you for your presence and your journalistic function. We wish you another year of fruitful and intense work in the nation's service.

Army Secretary With Viola

PY110247 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0222 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Dec (NA) -- President Roberto Viola tonight met with the secretary general of the army, Gen Alfredo Saint Jean, in a new stage of negotiations by the armed forces to solve the institutional political crisis.

General Saint Jean arrived around 2200 at the Olivos residence but it is not known if he carried any message from the army commander, Gen Leopoldo Galtieri or the military junta. The secretary of the army met with President Viola after attending the reception given by the military junta for journalists in the Libertad Building. On this occasion, the commander of the navy, Adm Jorge Anaya, said that the crisis "would be resolved in the next few hours."

Request for Viola Resignation

PY111022 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0402 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Dec (NA) -- The military junta has submitted a written request for Viola's resignation, according to information released by military sources tonight, when reporting on the activities of Gen Alfredo Saint Jean at the Olivos residence. The army secretary general arrived at the Olivos residence at 2220 tonight and left 1 and 1/2 hours later. Saint Jean then went to the Libertador Building where he reported the results of his actions to the army commander in chief, according to our sources.

Galtieri To Replace Viola

PY110013 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0008 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 10 Dec (NA) -- Lt Gen Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri will be appointed tomorrow by the military junta as chief of the executive branch until 29 March 1984, it was reported by official sources. This will virtually put an end to the confrontation between President Roberto Viola and the highest political organization of the state.

Further on Viola Replacement

PY110102 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0012 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Excerpt] According to the same sources, Galtieri will continue to be the army commander in chief until December 1982 and will carry on the presidency of the nation until completing, in March 1984, the term for which General Viola had been designated. The military junta's decision was explicitly mentioned tonight by Navy Commander in Chief Adm Isaac Anaya during a dinner given by the military junta to the press on the occasion of the yearend celebrations.

It was reported tonight that the military junta will convene tomorrow at 1000 at the Libertador Building, the headquarters of the army commander in chief.

The sources tonight reported that the appointment of Galtieri as president of the nation while retaining his post as commander in chief of the army will be spelled out in the document through which the military junta will formally appoint him as Viola's successor.

Viola's situation will also be considered tomorrow. Galtieri will take the oath of office as president either on 20 or 23 December, the source said. The military junta has already decided that his term will be a continuation of the one initiated by Viola on 29 March last and thus his term will expire on 29 March 1984, the source said. They added that it has been agreed that Galtieri will complete his 3-year term as army commander in chief which means that in December 1982 he will be replaced and will become the new "fourth man." As of then he will be president only and the duties of army commander of chief will be carried out by the successor he may appoint.

With regard to the future government, the sources indicated that the ministers of social action, Carlos Lacoste; and labor, Julio Porcile, will be the only ones holding their positions. It was reported that "no other member of the current cabinet will hold positions in Galtieri's government.

Regarding the number of ministries, there will be a reform of the law on this matter to unify the economic leadership. Of the current five ministries, only the Ministry of Public Works and Services will remain the same. "In this manner -- among other things -- pressure from sectors to put their men in the ministry of their interest will be prevented," said the sources in obvious allusion to the ministries such as agriculture and cattle, industry and commerce.

Regarding the Ministry of Public Health, apparently as of today a decision has not yet been made whether it will remain as a ministry or become an under secretariat under the Social Action Ministry as indicated by reports in the last few days.

Regarding the economic policies, the sources predicted that "there will not be either pure liberalism or a government controlled economy." It could be labeled as a "moderate economic policy," perhaps characterized by "a permissible liberalism."

According to the sources, the Interior Ministry will be headed by a major general on active duty. The sources noted in this regard that General Galtieri has not yet installed the recently designated commander of the IV [Army] Corps, Maj Gen Llamil Reston, who is currently chief of staff of the Armed Forces Joint Command and who was labor minister during the presidency of Jorge Videla.

AIR FORCE COMMANDER GRAFFIGNA TRAVELS TO LORETO

PY101445 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1400 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Dec (NA) -- Argentine air force commander in chief, Lt Gen Omar Graffigna today traveled to Loreto, in Santiago del Estero Province, to participate in religious ceremonies which will be held to commemorate the day of the holy mother of Loreto, protector of the air force. Graffigna was accompanied by air operations commander and future air force commander in chief, Brig Gen Basilio Lami Dozo. Graffigna is scheduled to return to Buenos Aires during the afternoon.

GOVERNMENT TO BROADCAST 15-MINUTE NETWORK NEWS

PY101602 Paris AFP in Spanish 0503 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Excerpt] La Paz, 9 Dec (AFP) -- Official sources have noted that the Bolivian Radio Broadcasting Association (ASBORA), made up of owners of private radio broadcasting stations, will grant the government 15 minutes per day to broadcast official government news in compensation for suspending the official government network.

The official government measure was interpreted as part of the democratic opening process that was announced to the country by President Celso Torrelio Villa. This political opening process may lead to democratic elections within the next 3 years.

Observers also noted that the curfew that has been in force since the coup of 17 July 1980 may also be lifted before the end of the year.

CABINET ASSESSES RESULTS OF 11TH OAS MEETING

PY101341 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] Information Minister Jaime Humerez has reported that Bolivia continues to maintain that the problem of its landlocked situation is an American problem which should be solved on an international level. In this connection he stressed that the last OAS resolution, approved in Saint Lucia by the 21 member countries of the organization, is a new step toward achieving the understanding and support of the hemisphere for a solution to this international injustice in a relatively short time.

Humerez Seleme said that the results of the 11th OAS General Assembly as far as this country is concerned were analyzed at the regular cabinet meeting on the basis of a report submitted by interim Foreign Minister Romulo Mercado Garnica.

[Begin Humerez recording] The first report at this cabinet meeting which has been one of the longest -- it began at 0600 this morning -- was that made by Col Romulo Mercado, interim foreign minister and interior minister, who gave a summarized acount on the performance of the Bolivian delegation at the OAS assembly where, as you know, Bolivia has received full support from the countries participating in the assembly for the demand for a solution to the problem of Bolivia's landlocked situation. [end recording]

The 11th general assembly of the continental organization unanimously approved on Monday a new resolution (?offering) to negotiate a solution to the Bolivian maritime problem on the basis of the terms contained in another resolution of 1979. In that resolution, approved in La Paz, it was urged that the negotiations which would be undertaken to that effect should take into account the Bolivian position of resisting any type of territorial compensation in exchange for an outlet to the sea.

Humerez Seleme said that the cabinet meeting examined the expressions of support for Bolivia at the Saint Lucia assembly and said that it opens prospects for the correction of that injustice.

[Begin Humerez recording] The government believes that this support on an American scale for the Bolivian cause is new progress for the constant policy followed by our country in order to gain understanding among all American countries and their support for a solution of this international injustice in a relatively short time. Bolivia maintains and has always maintained that the problem of its landlocked situation is an American problem which should be solved through the international community. [end recording]

OFFICIAL VIEWS RELATIONS WITH ANDEAN PACT

FY100234 Paris AFP in Spanish 2059 GMT 2 Dec 81

[Text] La Paz, 2 Dec (AFP) -- Bolivia has no problems with the Andean Group, Integration Secretary Edgar Millares asserted today in La Paz upon being consulted on the European Economic Community (EEC) standpoint which conditions its relation with the Andean Pact to Bolivia democratization.

Millares indicated: We have always proceeded in a very broad and open way, and the diplomatic normalizing steps taken with Venezuela and Ecuador are positive.

The minister said that the government plan is clear and conclusive, since it contemplates a plan to restore the state of law, together with other social and economic plans which will be fulfilled within the next 3 years. Following the military coup headed by Gen Luis Garcia Meza, Bolivia became isolated from the other members of the Cartagena Agreement (Peru, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela).

Edgar Millares pointed out that, however, in the past 2 months the integration secretariat has established important subregional contacts, and the results have been positive. He added that next week an important delegation will travel to Quito, Ecuador, to attend both the high-level and technical meetings of the Andean Group.

GENERAL GARCIA MEZA MAY BE PROSECUTED BY ARMY

FY101620 Paris AFP in Spanish 0323 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] La Paz, 9 Dec (AFP) -- It was noted here today that former Bolivian President Luis Garcia Meza will be transferred to a sector of the army which will subject him to investigation for 2 years. This means that he may be tried by competent bodies for having signed a contract for the illegal exploitation of precious stones.

On 17 July 1980, Garcia Meza headed a military coup against the government of Lidia Queiler Tejada and he installed a military junta made up of the three armed forces commanders. It was also reported that Gen Waldo Bernal and Rear Adm Ramiro Terrazas, who also signed the contract for the exploitation of precious stones, will also be put at the disposal of the army.

General Garcia Meza has been charged several times with being involved in drug trafficking, but this has been denied by the former president.

The existence of a contract with the Brazilian firm Rumy Limited for the exploitation of semiprecious stones in the La Gaiba region, located in eastern Bolivia, has also been disclosed. Since the contract contains certain irregularities, the comptroller general, Gen Antonio Ovando Rojas, has requested the executive branch to start legal proceedings against those involved in the deal.

Gen Garcia Meza left power after a military coup perpetrated on 4 August 1981 that was led by Gen Alberto Natusch Busch and Gen Lucio Anez Rivero.

BRIEFS

SOVIET RED CROSS DONATION -- Soviet Ambassador to Bolivia Sergey Kovalev handed over important donations of medicines from the Soviet Red Cross and Red Crescent to the Bolivian Red Cross within the framework of friendship and mutual cooperation. Dr (Hugo Palacio Moscoso), chairman of the Bolivian Red Cross, expressed gratitude for the Soviet donation in the name of the Bolivian Red Cross, and stated that it will be distributed among the most needy people in the country. [La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Dec 81 FY]

FIGUEIREDO, JARDIM LASH OUT AT OPPOSITION

PY102118 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Excerpts] Criticizing the opposition, Air Minister Gen Delio Jardim de Matos has given a warning: Don't corner the government. I am afraid the government might start to act, I am afraid the country may be forced into anarchy.

Commenting on the opposition parties' attempt at merging or incorporating one with another, the minister said that the electoral package was drafted as result of mounting radicalization.

General Jardim de Matos also commented on recent remarks made by Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, president of the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party [PMDB], who voiced support for student demonstrations staged in Brasilia to protest the visit of former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. Jardim said: When I see a party president supporting anarchy, I feel that the opposition does not want democracy.

In response to General Jardim's warning, Guimaraes said: The forest cannot be blamed for the fire. He also accused the government of attempting to build an incendiary atmosphere for the elections in order to act with violence and radicalism.

In a ceremony concerning agriculture, President Joao Figueiredo made his first public criticism of the opposition. The president said that certain opposition sectors have refused to acknowledge the sacrifices made by the government.

[Begin Figueiredo recording] The sacrifices made by the government, despite not being acknowledged by certain opposition sectors, have been such that projects of fundamental significance for the country, or projects already under way, have often been paralyzed or least their schedule of implementation has been extended in order to provide a minimum of resources to the agricultural sector. I realize that the resources, which with so much sacrifice have been set aside for agriculture, are not enough. [end recording]

CUBA'S CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT MAY SPEAK

PY100217 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 9 Dec 81 p 16

[Text] Brasilia -- Jose M. Diaz Mirabel, president of the Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of Cuba, will address the Economy Committee of the Chamber of Deputies when congress reopens a new legislative session in March 1982. Mirabel will talk about trade possibilities between Brazil and Cuba.

Acting upon a suggestion presented by Deputy Ralph Biasi (PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] -- Sao Paulo), the Economy Committee has already requested the chamber's president take all the necessary steps to make possible the appearance of Mirabel on the floor of the chamber. [as published]

Deputy Biasi proposed the participation of the Cuban Chamber of Commerce president considering the difficulties now being experienced by the manufactured goods sector. According to the Sao Paulo deputy, the Cuban consumers market is strong and promising for Brazilian export products.

He noted that the Latin American consumers market for Brazilian products has been expanding with relative success, except for the Cuban market. Brazil does not maintain diplomatic or commercial relations with Cuba.

According to Biasi, Cuba's total exports now amount to $12 billion per year, a figure which undoubtedly indicates the existence of an excellent consumer market. Biasi also noted the stability of the Cuban economy as a real guarantee for eventual contracts with Brazilian exporters.

NEW FOREIGNERS STATUTE APPROVED BY PRESIDENT

PY102024 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1000 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] Without a veto but with an innovation, President Figueiredo has approved the new foreigners statute. The innovation is the creation of a provisional 2-year registration of foreigners in irregular status who entered the country before 21 August 1980. The time period for requesting provisional registration will extend up to 120 days after the law's publication date in the official newspaper.

The new law grants permanent visas to missionaries and forbids the expulsion of foreigners married to Brazilian citizens for more than 5 years or with a Brazilian child under their care. It also allows temporary registration in legally recognized professional associations, such as the medical association, the Brazilian Bar Association and the engineers council, to foreigners who entered the country as scientists, professors, technicians or other kinds of professionals, provided they are under government contract.

The law will permit the processing of more than 10,000 naturalization applications which were suspended by the Justice Ministry in August 1980, when the previous law, now modified, was approved.

SARAIVA, LUMLEY DISCUSS FIGUEIREDO'S CANADA TRIP

PY100238 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 9 Dec 81

[Text] The visit President Figueiredo will make to Canada during the first half of next year was one of the main issues discussed by Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro and Canadian Foreign Trade Minister Edward Lumley at a meeting they held this afternoon at Itamaraty.

President Figueiredo was to visit Canada in October this year but his trip had to be postponed due to his heart ailment. Thus, Canada will be the first country President Figueiredo will visit in 1982.

COUNTRY RESUMES IMPORTATION OF SOVIET OIL

PY101700 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 0230 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] PETROBRAS President Shigeaki Ueki has reported that Brazil has resumed imports of Soviet oil at an average of 20,000 barrels of crude per day, paying international rates. PETROBRAS technicians have said that good contacts have been made in China for new oil purchases.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKERS SEEK TO END STRIKE

PA081057 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Text] A large number of Ecuadorean National Telecommunications Federation, FENETEL, employees gathered this morning at FENETEL to return to work, expressing disapproval of the measures which have virtually paralyzed FENETEL throughout the country for the past 11 days. The workers indicated that they do not approve the strike called by FENETEL labor leaders because it has become a political issue and not a labor struggle to demand better wages and working conditions, as was originally intended. They said that the labor leaders are following orders of sectors seeking to destabilize the government. For this reason, they ask their fellow workers to return to work.

They also expressed annoyance because they were not allowed to work today -- the police did not allow them in the building. They realized that the police were guarding the installations, but they added that hundreds of workers want to go back to work, and that they hope a sincere dialog can be held to solve their problem.

Strike Termed Failure

PA101813 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Excerpts] The strike called by the Single Workers Front [FUT] has failed to paralyze the country. Hundreds of workers did not support the union leaders, reflecting a profound split in the FUT leadership. This shows a need to replace FUT leaders promptly with men having credibility and sufficient moral stature among workers.

Making a surprising assessment, incumbent FUT President Emilio Velasco told unimpressed newsmen the following:

[Begin Velasco recording] In the name of the FUT, which is present here, we express our gratitude, satisfaction and pride at the positive response of our companero workers, 90 percent of whom have heeded the call for a nationwide strike. The nationwide strike called by the FUT, I repeat, is being heeded by 90 percent and is a complete success. We reject the repressive measures adopted by the government, which reached the stage of jailing companero leaders of the FUT. [end recording]

Labor Minister Vladimiro Alvarez thanked Ecuadoreans for their lofty spirit and sense of responsibility about work. He said the workers have understood the country requires productivity more than ever.

[Begin Alvarez recording] The time has come to stress that the Ecuadorean citizens and workers have responded to the needs of the struggle by reacting like the government. What the country needs is to work, to produce and to overcome the conflicts and economic problems affecting it within the international context. This productive work must be done in an atmosphere of peace and harmony.

I have reports from labor inspectors and regional assistant directors from the coast and the (?interior). I will give you some specific examples. Work was normal in the leading (?cities); Guayaquil, Quito and Cuenca. The announced nationwide strike went almost unnoticed in other smaller cities. I would say that in the largest cities there was a sort of special sense of anticipation, a feeling that something was going to happen; but nothing occurred except normality.

Although it is true that there are some isolated cases of paralyzing very large firms whose unions are part of FUT, it is also true that they joined the strike out of union solidarity. I have reports from other cities. I must make clear that isolated cases of paralysis have occurred in the production sector. I would dare say they do not even amount to 10 percent. [end recording]

More on Strike

PA101930 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Excerpts] Government Minister Galo Garcia Feraud has described the failure of the strike called by the Single Workers Front [FUT] as a strong reaction by the Ecuadorean people in support of order and legality. He said the call made by the president was heeded because it was an appeal to work within order and democracy.

[Begin Garcia recording] I can state the Ecuadorean people have strongly reacted in favor of order and legality in the country. This is encouraging. Actually, I think the president's appeal on Monday night was heeded by the Ecuadorean people because it was an appeal to work within order and democracy.

I have been able to verify that the few attempts at disrupting public order were rapidly abandoned. With the help of the armed forces and the police we were able to guarantee order, security and protection to all Ecuadoreans wishing to work. Their attitude is clear evidence of their views regarding the country's current political situation.

[Question] Mr Minister, what do you think is the reason for the failure of the strike?

[Answer] Actually, I think the Ecuadorean people realize that this path only leads to destruction. The Ecuadorean people wish to work in peace. They want to preserve the traits that have helped them stand out in Latin America and the world; they want to make it possible to overcome the economic woes and other problems we are experiencing.

[Question] What is your view of the leadership of this organization which, in the last analysis, is sponsored by extreme leftist groups of the Communist Party of Ecuador and the so-called Popular Democratic Movement?

[Answer] I think that this is one of the factors that have estranged the Ecuadorean people from leaders who have been trying to use them, one way or the other, in pursuing goals which are not suitable to the country. Any communism of either line, as it has been described even on the front pages of our news media [Garcia changes train of thought] reveals the fact that their leadership -- by mixing their interests with political goals -- are not responding to the interests of the classist grassroots, much less to the country's interests. [end recording]

CONGRESS APPROVES PLO REQUEST FOR QUITO OFFICE

PA110257 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2229 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Excerpt] It was officially reported that the Ecuadorean congress approved a request of the PLO to establish an office of representation in Quito. Alejandro Carrion, chairman of the Parliamentary Commission on International Affairs, handed to this agency the text of the resolution which left the installation of the representation up to the executive branch.

The document stressed the Ecuadorean stand regarding the conflict in the Middle East which advocates "the nonintervention, the right to self-determination, the peaceful solution to conflicts, the nonrecognition of territorial conquests through force, the respect for human rights and, therefore, the return of the Palestinian people to their home."

The resolution was adopted following an analysis of the problems of the Middle East and at the end of a meeting that Ecuadorean legislators held with Issam Besseiso and Juan Abugattas, [names as received] PLO representatives for Latin America. The parliamentary resolution "suggests to the Ecuadorean Government the authorization of the operation of a PLO agency in Quito under the conditions it deems most appropriate in order to facilitate better understanding and information on the Middle East problems."

BELIZE

PREMIER PRICE WANTS DIALOGUE TO SOLVE DISPUTE

PA102117 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1524 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] Guatemala City, 10 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Belizean Premier George Price has said that his country and Guatemala should solve their disagreement in a "state to state" dialogue without the participation of Great Britain and within the spirit of the bases of understanding signed by Great Britain and Guatemala in March.

In a statement broadcast last night by Guatemalan television channel 11, Price said that he is willing to take the first step toward an understanding with Guatemala. Guatemala claims that Belize is part of its territory.

Great Britain granted independence to Belize on 21 September.

In March, the London government signed the bases of understanding to which Price referred. Those bases of understanding grant Guatemala road outlets to the Caribbean Sea and the use of ports and cays in Belizean territory.

Guatemala accused Great Britain of violating the agreement, refused to recognize the independence of Belize and broke all relations.

In his statements to Guatemalan television, price said that his country is gradually becoming socially, politically and economically consolidated.

The premier said that before independence, Belize had problems obtaining foreign financing since only the Caribbean Development Bank granted its credits, but that as a free nation it now has access to other international organizations.

EL SALVADOR

JUNTA HANDS ELECTORAL LAW TO POLITICAL PARTIES

PA101310 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 9 Dec 81 p 19

[Excerpts] Through a bulletin and a copy of a speech by President Jose Napoleon Duarte, the presidency's information secretariat reported last night that the revolutionary government junta handed the temporary electoral law to the political parties that will participate in the March elections.

The ministers of state, members of the Central Electoral Council (CCE) and other top government officials attended the presentation, which was presided over by Duarte as president of the junta and Col Jaime Abdul Gutierrez, general commander of the armed forces.

Following the ceremony, Duarte and Colonel Gutierrez spoke. Here are the speeches:

Duarte speaks

Duarte said: "The government of the republic has decided to call elections and make them honest and pure. Regarding this, the government agrees to every effort to make this possible.

"We have done this convinced of the fact that we can slowly find a climate of peace together by merely presenting to our people a formula through which social conflict can be solved based on the exchange of views and not bulletins."

"The government wants to reiterate here, to you, its wish, will and firm decision to commit itself to these elections and to make them completely free. The armed forces have done the same, because we feel that it is a task that leads the country to well-being and tranquillity.

"We must base ourselves on the fact that the government truly wants free elections and that the armed forces also want free elections. Beginning today, we will have to work to have the parties participate and lay the groundwork to hold honest elections and allow the people to choose their destiny and what they want."

Gutierrez Speaks

Colonel Gutierrez asked the political parties not to contaminate the armed forces. His message said:

"The members of the armed forces who are not [as published] on active duty will not vote in the upcoming elections, and the institution will guarantee the honesty of the elections," Colonel Gutierrez, vice president of the revolutionary government junta and commander of the armed forces, told representatives of political parties who went to the Presidential Palace to receive the new electoral law. The members of the CCE were also present.

We announced that the new law has eliminated the electoral registry because it does not represent any guarantee for free elections. In addition, he stated that the law says the CCE will always be made up of three members but that there will be a vigilance committee made up of representatives from all the political parties.

Without Vote

Colonel Gutierrez said: "We know that there is a mandate which says that every citizen should vote. However, the almost unanimous decision of the armed forces is not to vote.

"We do this for strategic reasons. In the first place, we want to meet two goals with this: We do not want to be divided, and we do not want politicians to continue discrediting us. Therefore, we decided that army personnel not on active duty should not vote in the 1982 elections. However, we will guarantee truly free elections."

Reasons

"For this reason, we decided to include in the electoral law a provision exempting us from voting, in order to prevent active army members from being punished by the law for voting."

ARMED FORCES OPERATION CONTINUES IN MORAZAN

PA110422 Paris AFP in Spanish 0025 GMT 11 Dec 81

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 10 Dec (AFP) -- A new counterinsurgency operation has been put into effect by the armed forces in Morazan Department in eastern El Salvador to search for the hiding places of guerrillas who have taken cover in the area's dense mountain regions, military sources confirmed today.

According to late reports, action was increased today in towns such Joateca, Arambala, Meanguera, Perquin and other localities. Several clashes between guerrillas and regular troops have been reported, but nothing about the operation's result is known yet.

The Morazan area has been the site of similar action on several occasions, with heavy casualties on both sides. But the guerrillas regroup and again set up their camps, which the army is once again seeking to destroy.

For the most part, the Morazan area is without vital public services such as power, drinking water, transportation and mail because it is an area in which nobody's safety can be guaranteed.

In addition, roads leading to the region have been practically destroyed by the guerrillas to prevent the passage of all types of vehicles -- bridges have been blown up on some of the roads and ditches dug in others.

Thousands of peasants of the Morazan area have migrated to other parts of the country, fleeing from the violence rampant there over the last 2 years.

Those who have remained in their towns today are suffering from shortages of medicine, food and other elements necessary for existence and some cases from disease as consequences of the unhealthy environment.

There were reports today about shelling by the army, which is forcing an opening by using a system known in military terms as a "hammer and anvil" operation, which consists of surrounding and encircling a sector so as to counterattack by surprise. According to (?the source), this has been very successful on previous operations.

GUATEMALA

HEALTH MINISTER TO UNDERGO EYE SURGERY IN U.S.

PA101530 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1230 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] Dr Roquelino Recinos' return to Guatemala will take somewhat more time than foreseen, since he will undergo eye surgery in the United States.

The Guatemalan minister of public health and social assistance went to the United States not only for a medical checkup and to rest and recuperate after the 80 days he spent in captivity, but also to undergo surgery.

In view of this, Dr Recinos will not return to Guatemala until the second half of December, when he is fully recovered from both his kidnapping and the eye surgery.

Only President [Fernando Romeo] Lucas knows whether he will return to the Health Ministry. There has been no decision against this, but the president's final decision will not be known until Dr Recinos returns.

One day after he was liberated, the health minister himself said that he paid no attention to whether or not he would continue in his post, since the decision rested exclusively with President Lucas.

MINISTER DENIES REPORTS OF HEAVY ARMY CASUALTIES

PA101821 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] The defense minister has firmly denied reports of heavy army casualties in recent clashes. Yesterday, the armed forces energetically denied unconfirmed reports that last week the army sustained from 32 to 93 casualties in Tecpan Guatemala, Chimaltenango.

Defense Minister Gen Rene Mendoza Palomo said that in the first place there haven't been any recent armed clashes so the reports by a local newspaper and a foreign radio station are groundless.

Mendoza Palomo said that both the Guatemalan Government and the army have always told the truth to the press, while the clandestine groups make false statements in order to confuse the public. The defense minister was specifically referring to a newspaper that said on Saturday that 32 soldiers were killed in Tecpan and a foreign radio station which said that 93 soldiers were killed in that armed clash.

MILITARY PATROLLING INTER-AMERICAN HIGHWAY

PA101831 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1230 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] Military units are protecting the buses operating on the inter-American highway. Col Jaime Rabanales, chief of the army's public relations office, said yesterday that military units are constantly patrolling the highway to protect buses and the safety of citizens in general. The officer said that the military units are a guarantee for honest citizens. He said that the combing operations in eastern Guatemala have given the expected results.

Rabanales reiterated that the transportation companies have full guarantees to continue providing their service. Many buses no longer use the inter-American highway due to the constant acts of sabotage. Since last week, many transporters are using the coastal highway, that is, going from Quezaltenango to Retalhuleu. The bus owners' fear has increased as a result of the burning of three buses and the machinegunning of another only 40 km from Guatemala City. Although no one was injured, the losses were considerable.

HONDURAS

CARITAS DIRECTOR RAPS GOVERNMENT ON BORDER ISSUE

PA101750 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] Francisco (Menaz), national director of Caritas, the international conference of Catholic charities of Honduras, has said that the main problem generating danger and terror on the border with El Salvador is the Honduran Army's support for the Salvadoran Army.

The Honduran press is not concerned over the constant violations of Honduran territory, and this is very serious, according to Menaz. He commented on the apparent lack of interest among certain communication media over the constant incursions of Salvadoran troops, planes, helicopters, and paramilitary units into Honduran territory in the La Virtud area, Lempira Department.

Salvadoran soldiers even come to Honduran Army posts. They commit abuses against Honduran peasants and have even killed two Caritas employees, while Honduran soldiers do not take action.

He said that Elpidio Cruz and Lucio Aguirre were killed by Salvadoran troops when they tired to prevent the troops from kidnapping several refugees from the camp in La Virtud.

The Honduran Government, through the Government Ministry, had promised not to allow troops and paramilitary groups to enter our territory and to guarantee the lives of refugees and members of the humanitarian groups which, along with Caritas, are tending to the refugees. This promise has not been kept, as can be seen with the death of two of our employees, according to Menaz.

He rejected as false accusations made against Caritas by Napoleon Duarte's government and diplomats. They had claimed that Caritas was supplying food and medicine to the FMLN guerrillas. This is completely false, he said. The officials who make these accusations ignore the church's doctrine as outlined in the Puebla document, which favors the poor and condemns violence, misery, hunger, repression, and malnutrition as practiced by some governments. That is what we are fighting for, just like Msgr Arnulfo Romero did in El Salvador.

There have been democratic elections in Honduras, but as long as the refugee problem persists and the people suffer, we cannot speak of living in a just and Christian society.

SECURITY FORCES TO BE RESTRUCTURED IN 1982

PA101744 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] FUSEP [Public Security Forces] will be disbanded at the end of this month. Reliable sources reported yesterday that it will be turned into a specialized military police starting on 1 January. The FUSEP public relations office tried to deny the report. However, the action will take place on the specified date, because orders have been issued. We have learned that the military police will be formed from personnel out of battalions throughout the country, while FUSEP personnel will be transferred to garrisons to receive military training.

The conversion of FUSEP came about with the installation of a constitutional government in order to prevent any incidents such as those which happened during the last Liberal Party administrations.

FUSEP has suffered several defects. Therefore, its disbanding would be a preventive measure, because the people regard FUSEP as a repressive force instead of the guardian of the people's interests.

It was also said that the armed forces, after a careful study of the issue, decided on the action because FUSEP members lack training.

NICARAGUA

COSEP'S BENGOECHEA APPEARS BEFORE COURT

PA100448 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0300 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] Jaime Bengoechea Delgadillo, member of the board of directors of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise [COSEP], appeared before the district criminal court tonight.

Bengoechea Delgadillo, who was being tried in absentia for signing a COSEP document which violated the economic and social emergency law, appeared before the judge at 0645.

He arrived at Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport on a special flight from San Jose, Costa Rica, accompanied by (Orlando Matus del Carmen), member of the National Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

(Matus del Carmen) reported that he went to San Jose as a guarantor from the commission to accompany the defendant.

The mission of the representative of the commission was to accompany Bengoechea to court and then to his house, where he is under house arrest.

Bengoechea was met at the airport by Ismael Reyes and Enrique Bolanos, who were also present in court.

After the judge read the charges presented by the prosecuting office, Bengoechea said that the would reply to the charges in writing through his lawyer Guillermo Vargas Sandino.

TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENTS TO BE SIGNED WITH GDR

PA102053 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 4 Dec 81 p 10

[Text] A GDR delegation headed by Deputy Transport Minister (Heinrich Sholz) met yesterday with Commander Daniel Ortega and Dr Sergio Ramirez, members of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction.

They reached important agreements on the normalization of air and maritime transportation between the two countries. The agreement will be signed today.

Transport Minister Companero Carlos Zarruck and Foreign Trade Minister Alejandro Martinez Cuenca will sign for Nicaragua. GDR Deputy Transport Minister (Heinrich Scholz) will sign for the GDR.

In addition to Comrade (Scholz), the GDR delegation is made up of (Lohnar Kunzel), adviser to the deputy minister; (Joachim Schwinzev), director of the maritime enterprise; and interpreter (Monika Fovster).

ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH DPRK

PA101917 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0300 GMT 10 Dec 81

[Text] The DPRK and Nicaragua this afternoon signed a cultural and an economic agreement at the Foreign Ministry.

The first agreement establishes that the DPRK will supply Nicaragua with 810 tons of iron [hierro] in the coming days. The second agreement establishes an exchange of radio and television programs to contribute to the cultural development of the two peoples.

DPRK Ambassador O Song-hwan signed the agreements on behalf of the DPRK, and acting Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco signed for Nicaragua.

On signing the two agreements, the DPRK ambassador said that they serve to intensify and strengthen the ties of friendship between the two countries. Companero Victor Hugo Tinoco said that the signing of the mutual cooperation agreements is a form of sharing revolutionary experiences against the common enemy: U.S. imperialism.